Per annum average number of disposal of cases

3317. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of judges in the country and average number of cases disposed off by them per annum;

(b) the number of cases pending in the courts; and

(c) the action proposed to increase the number of judges to do justice to the citizens?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMAPNY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) As per latest available information, there are 13,328 sanctioned posts of judges in the country and the average number of cases disposed of by a Judge in the year 1997-98 is about 1319 cases per annum per Judge.

(b) As on 1.2.2000, the pendency of cases in Supreme Court was 20,260. The number of pending cases in High Courts as in September/December, 1999 is about 31 lakhs and the pendency of cases in the District/Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.1998 was approximately 2.04 crores.

(c) Pursuant to the Supreme Court's judgement dated 6.10.1993 and as per the resolution dated 4.12.1993 of the Conference of the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of High Courts, Government of India is reviewing the strength of Judges in each High Court once in every three years in consultation with the Constitutional functionaries in the State concerned and the Chief Justice of India. Accordingly, the Judge strength of all the High Courts has been reviewed in November, 1999. The present sanctioned strength of 18 High Courts is 591 permanent/additional Judges (as on 24.3.2000).

The Judge strength in the District/Subordinate Courts is worked out on the basis of yardsticks fixed by the concerned High Courts. The posts of Judges/Judicial Officers along with supporting staff are created by the concerned State Governments. These posts are also filled up by the concerned State Government/UT Administrations/High Courts as per their rules and procedure.